THE DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The volume of business of the general insurance industry has gone up from Rs. 1361 Crores in 1986 to Rs. 2248 Crores in 1988-89 (for 15 months' period ending 31.3.89) thereby registering a growth of 65.17 per cent over a period of 3-1|4 years. This shows that there has been enlargement in the business of the general insurance industry. Similarly, there has been improvement in the field of claims settlement also, as is evident from the fact that the rate of settlement of claims has gone up from 69.9 per cent in 1986 to 79.4 per cent in 1988-89 (for 15 months' period ending 31.3.89), indicating adequate notification in this service-oriented industry.

(b) Total claims paid in respect of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme so far for nine seasons from *Kharif* 1985 to *Kharif* 1989 amount to to Rs. 612.80 crores.

(c) The information regarding names of the States|Union Territories which are implementing the Crop Insurance Scheme is as under—

(1) Andhra Pradesh
(2) Assam
(3) Bihar
(4) Goa
(5) Gujarat
(6) Himachal Pradesh
(7) Kerala
(8) Karnataka
(9) Meghalaya
(10) Maharashtra
(11) Madhya Pradesh
(12) Orissa
(13) Tripura
(14) West Bengal
(15) Tamil Nadu
(16) Andaman & Nicobar
(17) Pondicherry

Accident at Bhilai Steel Plant

2625. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a serious accident at Bhilai Steel Plant on the 5th August, 1990; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what were the causes of the accident;

(c) how many workers died in the accident;

(d) what are the details of other losses suffered as a consequence thereof; and

(e) whether the safety provisions at the Plant were adequate and up-to-date and were functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) On August 4, 1990 at Bhilai Steel Plant when Blast Furnace No. 7 was being opened for tapping; it was observed that metal was oozing out between upper hearth bottom cooler No. 4 and coolers No. 3 and 4. This led to the hearth break out at Blast Furnance No. 7 and spillage of hot metal.

(b) As per the Enquiry Committee the hearth break out occurred due to engineering design parameters of the Blast Furnace.

(c) Unfortunately, one worker died in this accident.

(d) There was a spillage of about 50 tonnes of metal and some quantity of slag. The total value of the material is estimated at Rs. 1.64 lakhs. The material has been recovered as iron scrap which is proposed to be sold to the market and, as such the loss will be minimal.

(e) Yes, Sir.